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JOHANN MICHAEL MAISCH.

Next to the kindly offices which personal friends alone can render at the bedsides of their dear ones when the Death Angel has called them, comes the tribute of regret from the outside world when it learns of the common bereavement. Most sincerely do we extend to the friends of the late Professor Johann Michael Maisch our sympathy for their loss, and equally sincerely do we extend to them the expression of the regret which the whole scientific world feels in the loss of so worthy a co-laborer.

That the scientific pharmacy of America has lost one of its most worthy fathers, no one will for a moment deny. In our midst to-day are men who have come from the same country (Germany), who spend their lives with us, and who never seem to get thoroughly identified with the country of their adoption; they are never tired of praising old-country ways and institutions; nor do they ever lose an opportunity of belittling American effort, even when aimed in the most commendable direction. Of Prof. Maisch, however, this cannot be said; all his energies were given—dedicated, indeed—to the enrichment of his adopted home, and whatever advance has been made in American pharmacy and pharmaceutical legislation has been effected very largely by the leaven of his individuality. He had "honors thrust upon him" from every part of the globe, in recognition of the faithful and painstaking labor which was everywhere characteristic of his writings; and even when he was upon what was to prove his death-bed, the President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, Mr. Carteighe, brought to the Chicago meeting of the American Pharmaceutical Association the Hanbury gold medal for presentation to him. His death took place on

tage of the body as a whole, even though, perhaps, such administration shall, at times, run contrary to the desires of individual members. Added to all these qualifications he must, of necessity, be a good parliamentarian, as nothing is so annoying and yet at the same time so ridiculous as a presiding officer who does not know whether the amendment or the original motion should be first put to vote. He should not be selected for his past services to the Association alone, for a hard worker in the ranks is not always fitted to be a leader, nor is the fluent speaker upon the floor always sure to be a just judge, for as the presiding officer, his individual prejudices may come strongly to light and prevent impartial decision. The N. W. D. A. has had good men for presidents, and will always have good men for presidents, as its membership is composed of good men, but all good men are not good presidents, and there are those in the Association who, perhaps, are better qualified for such positions than any who have yet held it. At the next election of officers let a man be selected to act as president in all the word implies, and not with the idea of complimenting a town or a man by the choice.—*Pharmaceutical Era*, Sept. 1, 1893.

"Much Ado About Nothing."

This good old world has not made its annual cycle many times since the inhabitants of its civilized and enlightened portions were startled to an unusual degree by the announcement, from a once distinguished French scientist, that the unavailing search of Ponce De Leon for the fountain of perpetual youth need no longer be lamented, and that, although he had not discovered this much-to-be-desired spring in which to rejuvenate his aged members, the end could be accomplished by the injection of testicular extracts. This announcement took the world by storm. The secular and scientific publications were full of it, and a corner on the "lamb-fry" market was a natural consequence—mountain oysters going up away out of sight. Among the notables of the American continent who was early to place himself upon record was an ex-surgeon-general of the United States Army (retired list). Some of our leading houses engaged in the manufacture of pharmaceutical products placed their chemists and crucibles at active work in making, manufacturing, and bottling spermine, testicle juice, etc. Scarcely a village with any metropolitan pretensions whatever, that did not have one or more progressive medical men who hastened to avail themselves of a means by which their elderly patrons could bid defiance to the lapse of years and the stride of time.

Well, well, we don't hear much of it now. The clinical reports appearing quite frequently at that day seem somewhat ludicrous now, though so short a time has rolled by. Among the first to embrace and the last to abandon the senile delusion of the garrulous Gaul was Dr. Wm. A. Hammond, formerly of the United States Army, later of New York City, and now of Washington, D.C. In an early number of the *New York Medical Journal* of this good year, 1893, he had quite an elaborate paper on the preparation and therapeutical properties of "Certain Organic Extracts." Messrs. Parke, Davis &

Co., of Detroit, Mich., who have made numerous and commendable efforts to aid the practitioner of medicine, by means of their elaborate and complete appliances for manufacturing pharmaceutical products, and who have ever been in the van in introducing new drugs and their compounds, immediately, or some time thereafter, commenced the manufacture of "Desiccated Thyroids," for the cure of myxœdema, and "Cerebrin," "prepared" (as stated in their advertisement in this and other journals) "after the formula of Dr. William A. Hammond. Put up in glass-stoppered ounce vials." Also stating in parenthesis as follows: ["While Dr. Hammond has recommended maceration of the brain for six months, we have modified his method in such manner that we are enabled to thoroughly extract the crude material in as many days"].

Well, there seems to be nothing wrong in this. In fact, the abbreviation of time in manufacturing the product would seem preferable—at least so to a man up a tree. Extract of brains, as well as testicle juice, would certainly be the better for freshness. As for making use of the formula, or an improvement thereon, the same not having been at that time copyrighted, patented, or otherwise protected, or even saying that their preparation was prepared after the formula of Dr. H., or a modification of the same, we certainly think they had a right so to do, just as much as Dr. Hammond had the right, or assumed the right, to use the testicle juice of poor old Brown-Séquard, some years since. At least, if I had felt like wasting my time in such ridiculous nonsense, or any other reader of the *New York Medical Journal* of January last, or a reader of any other journal that may have copied the original, I would not have thought that there would have been an occasion for the subsequent display of wrath and ire on the part of the one and only Hammond. He gave his lucubrations to the public in a medical journal, issued for the public, and if one or many had seen proper to avail themselves of its real (?) or assumed benefits—why—yes, why this "tempest in a teapot?" Why this charge of fraud—aye, of *stealing* enunciated against a so well-known house, whose members are honorable gentlemen? Why this threat of legal proceedings? Yes, why all this thusness?

Possibly Dr. Hammond may have reasonable grounds for a law-suit, but will he not have to show a real value of the article at issue? If he claims damages to his good name and reputation, was he not the first to so impair it?

But, mayhap, there is a "*raison d'être*," in verity "a nigger in the wood-pile," an unquestioned feline in the meal-tub. Has Dr. Hammond copyrighted or patented his "Certain Organic Extracts?" Has he embraced Cerebrin as well as Cerebrine; Testin as well as Testine; Musculin as well as Musculine? Or, has he a proprietary right, or a silent-partnership in some other pharmaceutical house than the well known establishment at Detroit?

In giving expression to an opinion of the whole matter, we can only state that "the game is not worth the candle." In conclusion, our readers will find in our advertising pages, well worth reading, "*An Apology*," inserted by order of the well known pharmaceutical chemists, Messrs. Parke, Davis & Co., of Detroit, Mich.—*Southern Practitioner*, August, 1893.